WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE Provisional Police Settlement 2024-25

DATE 14 December 2023

BY Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government

Today, I am publishing proposals for the Welsh Government's component of funding to Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales for 2024-25. These include the provisional allocations of core revenue funding for each of the four Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales.

Policing policy is not devolved and funding for the four Welsh police forces is delivered through a three-way arrangement involving the Home Office, the Welsh Government and council tax. For 2024-25 the total core support for police forces in Wales will be £459.8 million.

A common needs-based formula, operated by the Home Office, is used to distribute funding across English and Welsh police forces, and the approach to setting and distributing the Welsh Government's component of police funding provision is based on a principle of ensuring consistency and fairness across England and Wales.

As a result, I propose to set the Welsh Government's contribution to police funding for 2024-25 at £113.47 million. As in previous years, the Home Office has overlaid its needs-based formula with a top-up mechanism funded by the Home Office. This ensures all police forces in England and Wales can expect to receive an increase in core funding of 2.054% for 2024-25. I recognise that against the background of recent high rates of inflation this will require the four police forces in Wales to make difficult decisions on services, efficiencies, and council tax precepts. All our Police and Crime Commissioners have been consulting with their local communities on the level of local funding for 2024-2025 and I know they will be keenly aware of the cost of living pressures many households continue to face.

The figures are summarised in Tables 1 to 3 of this Statement. Today's announcement marks the start of a consultation period which will end on 10 January 2024. Following this, allocations may be revised for the Final Settlement.

This information is also published on the Welsh Government's website at:

Provisional Police Settlement 2024-25

Police Revenue Funding

Table 1: Aggregate External Finance (RSG+NNDR, £m)¹

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Dyfed-Powys	13.355	13.150	13.030	8.667	8.492	8.413
Gwent	31.701	31.790	31.857	25.939	26.069	26.196
North Wales	22.496	22.614	22.523	16.513	16.334	16.361
South Wales	75.848	75.845	75.989	62.352	62.575	62.501
Total	143.400	143.400	143.400	113.470	113.470	113.470

Table 2: Police Grant and Floor Funding (£m)^{1,2,3,4}

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Dyfed-Powys	36.993	40.967	44.497	52.272	54.996	56.379
Gwent	41.287	46.660	51.539	62.401	65.967	67.730
North Wales	50.738	56.101	61.153	72.125	76.011	77.882
South Wales	84.864	96.895	107.639	132.165	140.078	144.315
Total	213.882	240.622	264.828	318.964	337.052	346.307

Table 3: Total Central Support (£m)^{1,2,3,4}

2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
50.348	54.116	57.528	60.939	63.488	64.792
72.988	78.451	83.396	88.341	92.036	93.926
73.234	78.715	83.677	88.638	92.346	94.243
160.712	172.740	183.629	194.517	202.653	206.816
357.282	384.022	408.228	432.434	450.522	459.777
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Notes:

- 1. Following the 2015 Comprehensive Spending Review, the Home Office made an annual transfer of funding to the Welsh Government in order for the Welsh Government to deliver its agreed contribution to police funding in Wales. From 2022-23 onwards, this additional funding is no longer transferred and is instead delivered by the Home Office through the Police Grant and Top Up Grant. This has resulted in the Welsh Government contribution to policing reducing by £29.93m from 2022-23. This is purely an administrative change and does not result in any change in overall funding for any Police Force.
- 2. This is the amount of police grant set out in section 3 of the Police Grant Report which includes the allocation under 'Police Main Grant' and 'Add Rule 1' (columns a and b) plus the amount 'top-up funding' that the Home Office has made available.
- 3. Figures for 2024-25 are shown before the adjustment made for the transfer of Special Branch funding, as outlined in paragraph 4.8 of the Police Grant Report.
- 4. Figures for 2023-24 have been restated to include the in-year funding awarded to police forces for the 2023-24 pay deal.